(b) whether learning English is being made mandatory for marrying girls; and

(c) the details thereof with Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government of India have not received any complaint or report of forced marriages among the members of the Indian community in the UK.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Maoists' base in Bhutan

2232. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Maoists have now selected 'Bhutan' as their base to conduct further anti-Indian activities in nexus with the ultras in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken/proposes to take up the matter with the Bhutan Government and to ensure that Maoists base in Bhutan is crushed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Both India and Bhutan are committed that neither Government shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

Agreement with France

2233. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France has expressed its keenness to negotiate an agreement with India an agreement on the lines of the 123 agreements;

(b) if so, the progress that has been made in this regard;

(c) the status of safeguard agreement with the international atomic energy agencies; and

(d) the progress that has been made in nuclear supplier group?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. A bilateral Cooperation Agreement on the Development of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy has been finalised with France.

(c) and (d) Government are currently engaged in negotiations with the IAEA to finalise an agreed text of an India-specific Safeguards Agreement. The conclusion of the safeguards agreement will enable the Nuclear Suppliers Group to adopt an appropriate India specific exemption to its guidelines. Government remain engaged with NSG countries to this end.